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Minutes, Feb. 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for February 7, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Joey Glushko, Ted Selker, Jon Niehof, Parris Kellerman, Joy Ahern, Tomi Nolan, and Bobby Mac.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32.

Jack called for stories about bicycle experiences that we've had in the last month.

The minutes from December were accepted after corrections. The minutes from the unofficial meeting in January were also modified.

Update on MassBike/MetroBoston Chapter meeting (held January 26). Jack told us that the meeting was well attended. The main topic of discussion was geography—or which communities qualify for membership in the Metro Boston Chapter. It was decided that the demarcation line includes the area contained with Route 128. There was some brainstorming on bicycle facilities and integration of resources especially concerning bike paths. The next meeting was scheduled for February 28. The agenda will include the selection of an interim board. An email list was set up for announcements.

Update on bicycling to school plus Vision 2020 question and tally volunteers.

Jack gave a brief review of where we stand on the Bicycling to School project.

Bobby suggested organizing a Bike to School Day. We all thought that was good idea. Jack asked for volunteers to help set up the event. Joey told us of Wayland's annual Middle School Bicycle Outing. Ted P., Ted S., Bobby, Christopher, Joy and Parris will work on this project. Joey will supply a contact in Wayland.

We briefly discussed the Vision 2020 questionnaire Joey asked for volunteers to tally the information from the questionnaires this month.

Discussion of possible MAPC Transportation Enhancement projects. For example: Bikeway connection improvements and bike parking associated with Arlington Center Revitalization; safety improvements for bikeway crossings at Mill and Lake Streets; bike rack purchase and installation program; bicycling education program for the schools; etc. Jack explained to us what this program is all about. He told us that facilities such as bike paths are funded through this program.

We decided that the redevelopment of the Bike Path crossing in Arlington Center should rank high on our list of bike related improvements in Arlington. A cheaper alternative would be to make safety improvements on the Bike Path crossings of Lake and Mill Streets. Bobby reminded us that the Minuteman Bikeway lacks restrooms in Arlington. Joey told us that this deficiency will not be resolved soon. Ted suggested that we ask merchants along the bikeway to allow path users to use their restrooms and post signs to that effect.

Jon suggested that there were other agencies that might provide funding for such projects. Ted had the idea that secure parking a Alewife would be another worth while project. Jack added that he would like to see a full fledged bicycle station at the Alewife Station.

We decided to recommend the Center crossing of the Bikeway as our highest priority. Jack thought we should table this topic until next month. Ted volunteered to help with a project for improving signage around the Rt. 2/Alewife area.

Bikeway safety/traffic issues: Arlington Center, Lake Street, Mill Street.

ACTION ITEM: Jack will draft a memo that will collate the information we have assembled thus far and will transmit it to the Selectmen.

Ted asked if the current intersection at Mill and Summer Streets could be adapted to lessen the danger of the Mill Street crossing. Joey added that the adjacent Mirak lot is going to be developed, making solving the intersection problems even more important.

Update on proposed enhancements to the Bikeway crossing in Arlington Center. Scott will contact Anne Lusk for a timeline on her project.

ABAC winter social event, Thursday night, February 17, 7-9 pm. The schedule of speakers has been finalized. Bobby Mac and Bruce Lederer will speak about bicycle rides for different levels of endurance and skill, and David Herlihy will talk about his new book on the history of bicycling. There will be a representative from Porter Square Books to sell copies of David's book so that he can autograph them. Scott is responsible for contacting Linda Guttman about serving her hot chocolate. We will need people to come early and set up chairs and refreshments. Some of us will also have to stay late to clean up.

Bike Arlington Tour, Sunday May 22. We need to explore a new route for this year. Joey suggested a stop at McClennen Park. Jack thought we should wait until the Summer Street renovation is finished.

Upcoming events include a traffic calming forum in Belmont, the National Bike Summit, and League Cycling Instructor Training program.

Open forum. Ted S. told us about a white van often double-parked on Mass Ave near Alewife Brook Parkway, blocking traffic. Scott added that the TAC is studying the parking situation in that area.

Jon suggested a study on pedestrian visibility under the new street lights that are being installed in Arlington.

On May 14-15 there will be a clean up of the Spy Pond bike path/trail. Jack will post further information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.